

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 16, 2005. Claims 1 to 20 are pending in the application, with Claims 17 to 20 having been added. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 10 to 14 have been amended, and Claims 1, 10 to 13 and 17 to 19 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action acknowledges Applicants' claim for priority based on Japanese Application Nos. 231125/2000, filed July 31, 2000, and 398978/2000, filed December 27, 2000. However, the Office Action indicates that priority cannot be claimed to 398978/2000, since this U.S. application was allegedly filed more than twelve months thereafter.

Applicants respectfully disagree, and submit that the July 30, 2001 filing date of this U.S. application is less than twelve months after the December 27, 2000 filing date of 398978/2000.

The drawings were objected to for allegedly having the same reference numeral "1501" to designate the "Operation Unit" of Figure 1 and the "Graphic Controller" of Figure 15. In addition, the drawings were objected to for allegedly including several reference numerals that have not been described in the specification.

In response, Figure 1 has been amended to change reference numeral "1501" to "25", and to delete reference numeral "2000". In addition, reference numerals "31" and "33" have been deleted from Figure 3, reference numeral "210" has been deleted from Figure 10 and reference numeral "1410" has been deleted from Figure 14. The specification has also been amended to include reference to steps S604 and S606 in Figure

6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly claiming non-statutory subject matter.

In response, Claim 12 has been amended to recite a computer-executable program stored on a computer-readable medium. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to the art-based rejections, Claims 1, 3 to 7 and 9 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,579,447 (Salgado); Claims 2, 8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Salgado in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,891,632 (Schwartz); and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Salgado in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,816,270 (Cooper). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 10 to 12

Referring specifically to the Claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to an information processing apparatus that serves as a host computer for forming print data which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes receiving means for receiving draw information based on a print document formed by an application, and obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of pieces of print set information stored in a storage unit. The information processing apparatus also includes estimating means for estimating, for each of the plurality of pieces of print set information obtained by the obtaining means, a print time required for a printing process of the draw information received by the receiving means. In addition, the information

processing apparatus includes forming means for forming, if a user is informed of the print times estimated for the plurality of pieces of print set information by the estimating means and if execution of the printing process is determined, the print data which can be interpreted by the printing apparatus based on the draw information received by the receiving means and a selected one of the plurality of pieces of print set information.

Independent Claims 10 to 12 are respectively directed to a method, computer-readable memory medium and computer-executable program which are seen to generally correspond with Claim 1.

A feature of the invention of Claims 1 and 10 to 12 therefore lies in forming print data based on received draw information and a selected one of a plurality of pieces of print set information, if a user is informed of estimated print times for the plurality of pieces of print information and if execution of a printing process is determined. By virtue of this feature, in which formation of print data is contingent upon informing a user of estimated print times and determining execution of a printing process, if a user is not content with an informed print time and decides to change print set information, print data does not necessarily need to be re-formed. Thus, execution of the printing process is made more efficient. The applied references of Salgado, Schwartz and Cooper are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

As understood by Applicants, Salgado discloses an apparatus for developing and displaying a representation of a total estimated time to print a job. An estimated time to print value is based on selected attributes which affect the time required to print the job. See Salgado, Abstract; column 7, lines 23 to 35.

Although Salgado may be seen to disclose an apparatus which displays an estimate time to print a job, Salgado is not seen to disclose or suggest that formation of print data is contingent upon informing a user of estimated print times and determining execution of a printing process. Rather, Salgado merely discloses that an estimated time to print value is based on selected attributes which affect the time required to print the job. Accordingly, Salgado is not seen to disclose or suggest forming print data based on received draw information and a selected one of a plurality of pieces of print set information, if a user is informed of estimated print times for the plurality of pieces of print information and if execution of a printing process is determined. In addition, Salgado is not seen to disclose or suggest the attendant benefits provided by such formation of print data.

In addition, Schwartz and Cooper have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Salgado.

Allowance of Claims 1 and 10 to 12 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 17 to 19

Independent Claim 13 as amended is directed to an information processing apparatus that serves as a host computer for forming print data which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining draw information based on a print document formed by an application. The information processing apparatus also includes estimating means for analyzing the draw information obtained by the obtaining means, and for estimating a print time required for a printing process of the draw information for each of a plurality of print modes stored in a storage unit. In addition, the information processing apparatus includes display control

means for allowing the print time estimated by the estimating means to be displayed in correspondence to each of the plurality of print modes, and selection means for selecting one of the plurality of print modes displayed by the display control means. The information processing apparatus also includes forming means for forming the print data based on the one print mode selected by the selection means and the draw information obtained by the obtaining means.

Newly-added independent Claims 17 to 19 are respectively directed to a method, computer-readable memory medium and computer-executable program which are seen to generally correspond with Claim 13.

Thus, among its many features, the invention of Claims 13, and 17 to 19 provides for (i) displaying an estimated print time in correspondence to each of a plurality of print modes, (ii) selecting one of the plurality of print modes which are displayed, and (iii) forming print data based on the selected one print mode and draw information. By virtue of the foregoing, in which the formation of print data is based on one print mode selected from a plurality of print modes displayed with corresponding estimated print times, print data does not necessarily have to be re-formed if a user decides to change print modes. The applied references of Salgado, Schwartz and Cooper are not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

As noted above, Salgado may be seen to disclose an apparatus in which an estimated time to print value is based on selected attributes which affect the time required to print a job. However, nothing in Salgado is seen to disclose or suggest that the formation of print data is based on one print mode selected from a plurality of print modes displayed with corresponding estimated print times. As such, Salgado is not seen to

disclose or suggest (i) displaying an estimated print time in correspondence to each of a plurality of print modes, (ii) selecting one of the plurality of print modes which are displayed, and (iii) forming print data based on the selected one print mode and draw information. In addition, Salgado is not seen to disclose or suggest the attendant benefits provided by such display of print times, selection of one print mode and formation of print data.

In addition, Schwartz and Cooper have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Salgado.

Allowance of Claims 13 and 17 to 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 10 to 13 and 17 to 19 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

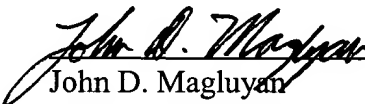
The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In this regard, dependent Claim 5 as amended recites the feature of estimating a print time required for a printing process of one piece of draw information for each of an obtained plurality of pieces of print set information. Salgado, Schwartz and Cooper are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

In response to the Examiner's objections to the drawings, Applicants submit herewith Replacement Drawing Sheets, in order to attend to such objections. Approval of the Replacement Drawing Sheets is respectfully requested.